

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02

SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /083 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2731

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VS

SUBJECT: GVN PRESS RELEASE ON MOBIL OIL'S WHITE TIGER WELL

STATE PASS: IBS/NCA

REF: SAIGON 13972

1. SUMMARY: THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT INDICATING THAT MOBIL'S FIRST WELL WHITE TIGER WAS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HUNDRED BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL AND SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS PER DAY. MOBIL INFORMS US THAT TESTING WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL END OF NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, INITIAL TESTS FROM A 10-FOOT ZONE AT 9,000 FEET SHOWED 430 BARRELS OF HIGH POUT POINT CRUDE (26 DEGREES API GRAVITY) AND 200,000 CUBIC FEET OF GAS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS IN SAIGON

FEBRUARY 12 BY THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED OVER SAIGON TELEVISION:

BEGIN QUOTE: YESTERDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1975, THAT IS THE FIRST DAY OF "TET AT MAO", AFTER A WHOLE DAY OF PREPARING AND TESTING, MOBIL DEVELOPMENT VIETNAM INC HAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED THAT THE PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION TEST OF WELL "BACH HO" AT THE FIRST PETROLEUM BEARING FORMATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATED THE CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING A FEW HUNDRED BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL AND SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS PER DAY. THIS TYPE OF CRUDE OIL IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE FROM DUA 1-X.

THIS WAS THE FIRST PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION TEST CARRIED OUT AT "BACH HO". WITHIN THE COMING WEEK, MOBIL VIETNAM INC, SHALL PERFORM A SERIES OF PRODUCTION TESTS AT OTHER PROSPECTIVE FORMATIONS FOUND DURING THE DRILLING. A JOINED PRESS-RELEASE OF MOBIL AND THE PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AGENCY (PMA) WILL GIVE A DETAILED RESULTS UPON COMPLETION OF THESE TESTS.

"BACH HO" IS THE THIRD WELL DRILLED IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE RVN. THE OTHER TWO, HONG AND DUA, SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOMETERS AWAY, ALSO FOUND THE PRESENCE OF PETROLEUM. THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE "BACH HO" BELONGS TO THE MEKONG SEDIMENTARY BASIN, WHICH ALSO COVERS THE ONSHORE AREA. THEREFORE, THIS PRELIMINARY RESULT, IS NOT ONLY CONSIDERED AS HIGHLY ENCOURAGING ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW YEAR BUT ALSO INCREASED THE PETROLEUM PROSPECTS ONSHORE.

THE WELL "BACH HO" IS LOCATED IN BLOCK NUMBER 4-TLD GRANTED TO MOBIL DEVELOPMENT VIETNAM INC IN SEPTEMBER 1973, AND THE DRILLING OPERATIONS WERE STARTED AT THE END OF OCTOBER, 1974. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT

FOREGOING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY GVN AND NOT BY MOBIL. LATTER'S LOCAL MANAGER PETER GELPKE INFORMS US THAT SO FAR ONLY 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL TESTING ON WHITE TIGER WELL HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ALTHOUGH RESULTS ARE ENCOURAGING, HE WARNS NO FEFINITE STATEMENT CAN BE MADE UNTIL END OF NEXT WEEK. AT THAT TIME MOBIL, ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTNER KAIYO OIL AND GVN PLAN TO MAKE A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.

ACCORDING TO PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AGENCY OFFICIAL, TEST RESULTS FROM A 10-FOOT ZONE AT 9,000 FEET SHOWED DAILY FLOW OF 430 BARRELS OF HIGH POUR POINT CRUDE (26 DEGREES API GRAVITY) AND 200,000 CUBIC FEET OF GAS. HE ADDED THAT MOBIL WOULD TEST ABOUT 3 OR 4 ZONES.

DECLASSIFY AFTER APRIL 15, 1975.

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